



Week of the Young Child

April 6-12, 2003

*"Children's Opportunities -
Our Responsibilities"*



Media Backgrounder

Week of the Young Child – April 6-12, 2003

Highlights Needs of Young Children in Shasta County

February 6, 2003 (Redding)-----First 5 Shasta (the Shasta Children and Families First Commission) and the California Cascade Association for the Education of Young Children (CCA EY C) are joining forces to celebrate the “*Week of the Young Child*” from April 6-12th. The annual Week of the Young Child (WOYC) is a nationwide celebration of children and a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities.

Local Highlights

Shasta County organizations, community groups, schools and private businesses will join hundreds of organizations across America in honoring children from birth to age eight during WOYC 2003.

Local sponsors are uniting to offer events and activities that highlight the importance of families, early childhood professionals, and entire communities working together to support every child’s healthy development and to promote quality early learning experiences.

A calendar of events is being developed that includes a children’s art exhibit, early childhood workshops, family dinners, health fairs, and specially scheduled “Celebrity Readings” at county and volunteer library locations across the county. Readings will be offered in Spanish by the Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition. Synchronized bubble blowing with children across the county will be announced as a daily activity taking place at 10:00 a.m. from April 6th through April 12th.

Speakers

Nationally recognized speakers have been attracted to Shasta County to lead WOYC educational events for professionals and parents. Confirmed speakers to date include:

Dr. Barbara Clark, original host of the “Romper Room” television program and author of Growing Up Gifted. At an April 8th conference, Clark will share the latest research surrounding early brain development and explore activities that nurture growth during this critical period of a child’s development.

Hogan Hilling, author of The Man Who Would Be Dad, speaker at the North American Childbirth Educators Conference, and a featured guest on the 2001 Oprah Winfrey Show’s “Father’s Day” program. Hilling will offer a “Proud Dads” seminar on April 5th that emphasizes the importance of the dad’s side of parenting and fathers supporting fathers.

Support WOYC

The Week of the Young Child allows business leaders, teachers, parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, child care providers, friends and caring citizens to celebrate their unique connection with children. Opportunities abound to support WOYC in ways large and small – from handing out WOYC Events Calendars to displaying a poster, banner, or children’s artwork to sponsoring events and underwriting costs for children visiting Turtle Bay or Schreder Planetarium. Sponsors and supporters of events confirmed at this time are Turtle Bay Exploration Park, Shasta County Office of Education, Shasta Head Start, Northern Hispanic Latino Coalition, Shasta Family YMCA, Shasta County Library, Child Abuse Prevention Council, A Phillips Production, Shasta County Public Health, Shasta College, First 5 Shasta and CCAEYC.

Organizations and local “celebrities” that wish to be a part of this ambitious celebration of the young children in our area are urged to contact Rachelle Sousa at First Five Shasta.

Children’s Opportunities – Our Responsibilities

The Week of the Young Child was established in 1971 by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the largest organization of early childhood educators and others dedicated to improving the quality of early education programs for children birth through age eight.

The 2003 Week of the Young Child theme is *Children’s Opportunities – Our Responsibilities*. This week-long celebration offers Shasta County communities a time to reflect on the contributions each citizen can make to the health and well-being of young children.

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